



TIM GRIFFIN

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ARKANSAS

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Attorney General Griffin Announces Medicaid Fraud Conviction of Searcy Business Owner

Griffin: 'Putting Arkansans at risk by using unlicensed, uncredentialed interns to provide treatment is unconscionable'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin today issued the following statement regarding the conviction of Pamela Townsend Bell, 59, of Judsonia on two counts of Medicaid Fraud, both Class C Felonies:

“Last week, Bell—the owner of I’m a 10 Wellness Center in Searcy—was convicted on two counts of felony Medicaid Fraud. She billed the State Medicaid Program for claims where unlicensed, uncredentialed social work interns provided therapy to her clients.

“I congratulate my office’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit on their diligence to secure this conviction, particularly Special Agent Rhonda Swindle and Assistant Attorneys General Sharon Strong and David Jones. I also thank Sixth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Will Jones for his office’s assistance.

“Putting Arkansans at risk by using unlicensed, uncredentialed interns to provide treatment is unconscionable. Those who think about cutting corners like that to make a profit will be held accountable.”

Bell was sentenced to five years of probation, restitution in the amount of \$11,765.62 to the Arkansas Medicaid Program Trust Fund and a fine in the amount of \$23,531.24. She will be excluded from providing services to Medicaid beneficiaries in the future.

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin has served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 27 years and currently holds the rank of colonel. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

He is currently serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana. His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Liberty (née Bragg), North Carolina, and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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